

Most of us remember when we could only get 5 or fewer stations on TV. But isn't it great that we now have cable! It's difficult now to imagine not having access to services like HBO, Showtime, The History Channel, A & E, CNN and the Discovery Channel. The existence of these services has not done away with the regular programming channels like NBC. They have however improved the quality of life for many viewers by introducing programming that would have otherwise not been available. Programming that is educational, informative and entertaining. We are better informed, more educated, and more entertained than before this expansion. By the way, think of the jobs created by this expansion and the creative ideas that flourished from opening that door. The access to additional services has been a benefit to each of us and to all of us as a whole.

Isn't it foolish to think that XM radio's existence would do away with regular radio? Even so...so what if it does? If it makes way for something better. Who would keep their outhouse?

Even among the existing public radio channels available we decide what we want to listen to by changing the channel. But there are only so many channels (a limited few that is) and so many times I just pop in a CD or even turn the radio off due to not finding programming. I'm probably not the only one who has done this. Why should we be forced to settle for the limited few choices they provide at this time or settle for silence?

Expansion is a natural cycle in our economy. Expanding the options for consumers is a natural product of demand and competition. New suppliers providing these services are welcomed by the consumers of course but not welcomed by existing competitors. There is no good reason (especially fear of competition) to squash entrepreneurship such as an XM Radio service. Expanding these services it would seem is likely to open doors to new jobs by the way. Doesn't our economy need that?

We enjoy XM Radio greatly. It's a breath of fresh air in that it offers so much more rich content and isn't just one big long commercial like the regular radio channels. Driving can be stressful enough at times and being bombarded with nonstop commercials may even increase the stress. People today spend an increasing amount of time in their vehicles...so they have more time listening to radio. The more time a person spends on or with something the higher quality they will demand from it. They are a captive audience in their own vehicles and their only escape is what they are listening to on their radio. Why limit their choices?

So maybe locally there are 5 or so local channels available for local info such as traffic or weather. We already are choosing one over another among them aren't we? So what's so bad about having 10 or 15 or more to choose from? Come on...?

And how local are the local channels anyway? If you live outside a metropolitan area how specific to the so called local channels cover your area? Don't they focus on the main city like Dallas and then 1 or 2 suburbs may get mentioned briefly. Plus, how many major highways are there in your area...can they really mention all of them in their little 30 second announcement? Not likely. They can't possibly cover everything and inevitably a lot gets left out.

Isn't it possible that we could see a more highly specialized network developing? Perhaps additional channels more specialized that maybe cover areas that currently don't get honorable mention on the local news, weather and

traffic announcements. The History Channel. The Discovery Channel, CNN, Lifetime...these are all specialty channels. Don't we love the idea of that on radio? The comedy station, the disney tunes, the sports station, etc. What about the traffic channel exclusively for your suburb? or the weather channel exclusively for your suburb? Don't we love to improve on what we have?

I respectfully uge you, the FCC to reject the NAB's petition 04-160 and to support XM's ability to provide the kind of programing that consumers like myself want.